

memory. This will serve as a constant reminder of the gratitude we all feel toward these two brave individuals, along with all other law enforcement personnel who have lost their lives serving as guardians of our communities.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "For those to whom much is given, much is required. And when at some future date when history judges us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities to the state, our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: First, were we truly men of courage . . . Second, were we truly men of judgment . . . Third, were we truly men of integrity . . . Finally, were we truly men of dedication?"

Deputy Sheriff David Hathcock and Sergeant Edward Lowry would truthfully have been able to answer each of these questions in the affirmative! They were indeed men of courage, judgment, integrity, and dedication. May the memories of these two brave individuals live on in our hearts and may God's strength and peace always be with their families and friends.

#### WELCOMING EDGEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the Edgewood Middle School located in Edgewood, New Mexico. The school is a brand new institution of secondary learning. The need for the school is a testament to the growth and innovation of this area of my state, portions of which I proudly represent.

Edgewood is a lovely community situated amid the East Mountains and arid lands of New Mexico. Edgewood and its nearby neighbors—Moriarty, Sandia Park, Tijeras, Cedar Crest, and Stanley—are committed to the community values that make for a high quality of life. It is not surprising to me the enthusiasm and welcome that the Edgewood Middle School has received.

Someone once said that a journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step. I must commend Moriarty school superintendent, Dr. Elna Stowe, for her tireless work and devotion in making this school a reality. Additionally, the first principal of this institution, Sandy Beery, will shepherd the school as it grows and blossoms.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, it takes a team effort to achieve great goals. I fully believe that the educators, administrators, and the surrounding communities will come together to have an exceptional body of learning. Schools are hallowed places, and I am very enthusiastic about the students who will be educated here and then move on to higher learning. A good education is the start of a good future.

I close by taking you back to 1787. It was a time much like today, when this Nation's future was at an exciting crossroads. At the close of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin rose and made an observation about the chair from which General Washington had been presiding. On the chair was

the design of a Sun that was low on the horizon, and many of the delegates had wondered whether it was a rising or a setting Sun. 'We know now,' Franklin said. 'It is a rising Sun and the beginning of a great new day.'

The people of the East Mountains are proud of their strong community spirit and devotion that have helped build the Edgewood Middle School. I commend these community members for their dedication to education and for the enrichment of their students, present and future. Because of all these things, I see a rising Sun and the beginning of a bright future for the East Mountain community.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA 25TH ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a resolution that recognizes and honors the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Congress first authorized IDEA in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142). Since 1975, Congress has refined and improved the law several times. In 1990 the statute was renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. As most everyone knows, this act assists states and local school districts with the excess costs of educating students with disabilities.

IDEA has ensured greater access to education for all students with disabilities. Not only has access to education improved, so has quality. Students with disabilities are increasingly completing their high school education and embarking on post-secondary education.

I believe strongly in the goal of IDEA—that every child should have the opportunity to receive a quality education. I know that teachers and school administrators also support this goal. However, I understand that schools need additional funds to make this goal a reality. To this end, I have been persistent in fighting for increased funding for IDEA during my years in Congress.

From the time the Republicans took control of Congress in 1995, we have seen the most dramatic increases in the federal funding for IDEA since its creation. Our work has paid off. The federal share of funding for IDEA has risen from roughly seven percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to 13 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure. I am proud of our efforts.

Of course, I realize that we still have a long way to go to reach the federal government's promise to provide funding to states and local schools in the amount of 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure. While I will not be in Congress next year to push for increased funding, I know there are many members who will continue this fight.

Over three years ago, Congress passed the IDEA Amendments of 1997, which brought many improvements to the education that children with disabilities receive. These amendments focused the law on the education a child is to receive rather than upon process and bureaucracy, gave parents greater input in determining the best education for their child, and gave teachers the tools they need

to teach all children well. For instance, under these amendments the Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed with the general curriculum in mind, and students with disabilities are taking district and state-wide assessments in greater numbers. The 1997 amendments also decreased the amount of paperwork required of teachers so that now they will have more time to spend with students.

I am pleased with the progress that has been made in recent years and it is appropriate that on the 25th anniversary of the passage of P.L. 94-142 we recognize the many accomplishments brought about by IDEA. IDEA has continually been refined to better serve students, parents, teachers, and schools. To continue these successes, we must continue our support for IDEA and the students it serves. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

#### TRIBUTE TO LABOR AND MANAGEMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA: FOR WORKING TOGETHER IN A COMMON CAUSE TO SAVE A HOSPITAL

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 13, 2000*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to West Virginia's labor and management team who have come together to help save a struggling hospital in Man, West Virginia, forced to close in June 2000 due in large part to Congressional cuts in Medicare reimbursements to hospitals. I salute the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the Arch Coal Company for setting an example for labor and management teamwork to save a hospital.

As we all are deeply aware, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997—or BBA97 in its short form—caused draconian cuts in Medicare reimbursements to health care providers across this country—hospitals, home health agencies, skilled nursing homes, and physical therapy programs.

I voted against the BBA97 because I knew first, you cannot cut providers without cutting services to seniors, and secondly, you should never vote for projected cuts of \$115 billion in Medicare, period. That projected cut of \$115 billion has today risen to \$227 billion, with two more years to go of planned cuts under BBA97.

Congress in passing the BBA97 rhetorically assured the American people that they were "only" cutting providers—not services to seniors who rely upon Medicare for all their health care needs. I knew then, and Congress knows now, that services were reduced to seniors, and that access to health care was denied to hundreds of thousands of patients.

In the interim, these past 3 years have seen hospitals, skilled nursing homes and home health agencies closing their doors in record numbers, leaving vulnerable elderly patients without local access to health care of any kind. The safety net that used to be in place is gone. Put bluntly, it is only now that Congress pretends it has just been made aware that 2 years of balancing the budget on the backs of senior citizens has caused hospitals